

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

AUGUST 26, 1842.

Ordered to be printed.—To accompany bill S. 267.

Mr. GRAHAM submitted the following

REPORT :

The Committee of Claims, to whom was referred a bill for the relief of J. R. Vienne, report :

That J. R. Vienne was an assistant marshal employed in taking the recent census of the parish of Orleans and city of New Orleans, in the eastern district of Louisiana; that he performed his duty to the acceptance of those having the supervision of it, and returned an enumeration of 29,168 inhabitants; and that, in the account rendered by the marshal, and approved by the district judge of that district, he was allowed a sum total of \$749 63 for his service. That account was returned to the Department, but was reduced to the sum of \$331 54, in consequence of the belief there entertained that the whole of the inhabitants enumerated resided in the city of New Orleans. It is now shown to the committee, by the subjoined statement of two gentlemen of the Louisiana delegation, that the portion of the parish of Orleans attached to the third municipality of the city of New Orleans, in which the census was taken by J. R. Vienne, embraces a sparsely settled country, twenty or twenty-five miles in extent, intersected by swamps, marshes, lakes, and bayous, so as to render it extremely difficult of access. The committee also learn, verbally, from one of those gentlemen, that the only mode of approach to many parts of the country is by water, and attended with considerable expense. The committee have no hesitation in believing that, had this information been in possession of the Department, and had the account been stated so as to discriminate between the inhabitants of the city and country, an additional compensation would readily have been allowed for those enumerated as residing in the country. They have no means of determining what portion of those enumerated are inhabitants of the country.

It appears, however, from the sum allowed, as tested by the rates of compensation, permitted by the census act of 1839, that the attention of the judge must have been called to this difference in the rates of compensation between the inhabitants of cities and the country; and that, in the sum approved by him, and returned to the department, he estimated a proper compensation for the actual service performed.

The committee, therefore, report an amendment to the bill, allowing the sum certified by the district judge, after deducting the amount already paid.

Thomas Allen, print.

We, the undersigned, certify that the settlements on the Bayou St. John, lakes Pontchartrain and Borgne, and the river Mississippi, included in that part of the parish of Orleans lying contiguous to the third municipality of the city of New Orleans, whereof the census was taken by J. R. Vienne, embraces a county of some twenty or twenty-five miles in extent, very sparsely populated, and, from the swamps, marshes, lakes, and bayous, with which it is intersected, is extremely difficult of access. We, therefore, do not hesitate to say that the taking of the census in that section of country must have been attended with as much labor and difficulty as in any portion of the country of equal extent.

C. M. CONRAD,
E. D. WHITE.